HE SAVED THE SIGHT OF THOUSANDS

AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.

# Will Open Home for Elderly Women

***Corporation receives property for purpose from Mrs. Fannie Barnard Pratt***

At its annual meeting in January, the Frances Merry Barnard Home, Inc., of Boston, Mass., accepted from Mrs. Fannie Barnard Pratt of Boston an attractive residence located in the Fairmount section of Hyde Park, Mass., to be used as a home for elderly or needy women. While its beneficiaries are not limited to women of the Unitarian faith, preference is given to them; so that the Frances Merry Barnard Home, it is expected, will be the first home of its kind to open its are on the second floor, and the maids' rooms and storage space occupy the attic.

The Frances Merry Barnard Home is named in memory of the mother of Mrs. Fannie Barnard Pratt, to whom the projected home has been one of her greatest life interests. Before the formation of the corporation in 1910, Mrs. Pratt maintained personally a home for a few women of the type she wished to help. This building was burned during the year 1912, and the corporation felt that the fund

the Unitarian faith." It has not been Mrs. Pratt's intention that the home should be a strictly charitable retreat, but that those who are admitted, if able, should pay a small sum each week.

Mrs. Pratt, the chief donor, is the widow of E. F. Pratt, who died almost half a century ago, and the mother of Charles Pratt, who gave to Massachusetts Institute of Technology its School of Naval Architecture. For about forty years she has made her home at Hotel Bristol in Boston. She has crossed the Atlantic forty or fifty times, and made her latest in 1927. She is the oldest trustee on one of the Boston hospital boards and has been prominent in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. Samuel A. Eliot is president of the Frances Merry Barnard Home, Inc., and W. Forbes Robertson is clerk. Additional trustees are Richard M. Bradley, Fred M. Lamson, Miss Anna M. Bancroft, Miss Hannah Kimball, and Mrs. Fannie B. Pratt. Mr. Lamson is also treasurer of the board. To him and to Harold Barnes the Home is deeply indebted for their unflagging interest and for the vast amount of time they have given in examining property and in investing the funds of the corporation safely and to the best advantage.

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## Mr. Dietrich in Boston

Rev. John H. Dietrich, minister of the First Unitarian Church in Minneapolis, Minn., and leader among Unitarian humanists, will fill three speaking engagements in Boston, Mass., next Saturday and Sunday. At the Saturday luncheon meeting of the Twentieth Century Club, 3 Joy Street, January 12, he will discuss "The Chief Danger in Our Civilization." Luncheon is at one o'clock, and the speaking will

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THE FRANCES MERRY BARNARD HOME, HYDE PARK, MASS.

The Frances Merry Barnard Home, which is at 50 Beacon Street, Hyde Park, is of semi-stucco construction, with wood above the first floor. While a few minor repairs will be necessary, it is in good condition to put into immediate use and will be opened in the spring. A veranda runs along two sides of the building, and there is a small conservatory for flowers. The land in the rear slopes down to the Neponset River and affords room for a large garden. The buildings include a stable and a garage. On the ground floor of the residence are a parlor and living-room divided by a large hall. In these and in the dining-room are fireplaces. The kitchen, and the usual pantries and closets, are also on the ground floor. Half a dozen sleeping-rooms and a sewing-room are on the second floor, and the maids' rooms and storage space occupy the attic.

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Various pieces of property have been examined from time to time, and architects' drawings have been considered, but the feeling has persisted that no attempt to buy or build a home should be made until the fund was sufficient to maintain it permanently. In order that the work may be developed, the corporation will be glad to receive further additions to the fund. Among donors to the fund, besides Mrs. Pratt, have been Mrs. Richard Bradley, the Misses Helen and Hannah Kimball of Brookline, Mass., Mrs. Rebecca B. Warren, and others. A legacy came also under the will of Caroline M. Barnard. Only the income from the fund can be used.

According to the agreement of association entered into when the corporation was formed, it was constituted "for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining a home for the occupancy of single women who through no fault of their own have been reduced in circumstances, and who are preferably though not necessarily of the Unitarian faith." It has not been Mrs. Pratt's intention that the home should be a strictly charitable retreat, but that those who are admitted, if able, should pay a small sum each week.

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## New England Alliance Meeting

Dr. Maxwell Savage, Rev. Elizabeth Padgham, and Dr. J. A. C. Fagginger Auer will be the guest speakers at the mid-winter meeting of the New England Associate Alliance, to be held at the Unitarian Church in Jamaica Plain, Mass., Thursday, January 17. Dr. Savage will speak on 'The Undimiuished Torch"; Miss Padgham will discuss "Phases of Religious Education"; Dr. Auer's topic is to be announced. A collection will be taken for Proctor Academy.

## Supplying at Memphis

Rev. John L. Robinson is serving as supply minister of the First Unitarian Church in Memphis, Tenn., until a minister is obtained to succeed Rev. Henry F. Waring, who resigned to study at the University of Chicago.

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# He Saved the Sight of Thousands

***Dr. Lucien Howe, noted ophthalmic surgeon and Unitarian Layman, is dead—His record and that of Dr. Samuel G. Howe and Louisa Lee Schuyler in the battle against blindness***

WITH the death of Dr. Lucien Howe, noted ophthalmologist, another chapter has been closed in the notable history of the service of Unitarians to the blind. He died at his home in Belmont, Mass., December 27. He was eighty years of age. The funeral service was held December 30, with Rev. Henry Wilder Foote of the Unitarian Church in Belmont officiating, assisted by President Kenneth C. M. Sills of Bowdoin College which was Dr. Howe's Alma Mater.

Dr. Howe's labors have saved the sight of thousands of persons. He was responsible for the first law requiring the use of drops in the eyes of new-born infants for the prevention of *Ophthalmia neonatorum*, "babies' sore eyes," passed by the New York State Legislature in 1890. Similar Laws have since been enacted in almost every State of the Union.

It is a fact that every important service for the prevention of blindness and the care and education of the blind has been initiated by Unitarians. The story began with Samuel G. Howe, who, in the thirties, opened the first school for the blind in America in his grandfather's home in Boston, Mass. It continued with Colonel thalmology" is its official title, Dr. Howe preferred to have it known as a memorial to his father, brother, and father-in-law. At the time of making his gift, he said:

"The father of Mrs. Howe [his wife] commanded a division of the sixth corps in the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War. My father commanded the Third Cavalry; while my brother, a captain in the Fourth Artillery, was killed in action early in life. These three men served in the Regular Army a total of over seventy years. It was therefore in accordance with the family plans to establish some memorial to that long record which would seem lasting and also useful. The gift to Harvard was the result."

Dr. Howe was the author of a two-volume work on "The Muscles of the Eye," of a book on "The Hereditary Eye Defects," and of another volume on "Universal Military Education."

Dr. Howe was born in Standish, Maine, September 18, 1848. Before entering on his medical education he was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1870, where he also received his A.M. degree three years later. His degrees in medicine came from the Long Island College Hospital in Brook-

National Committee. Her work for the prevention of blindness was begun in 1908 and resulted in the organization of this committee. It gave Miss Schuyler credit for reducing by one-half the infantile affliction which, at the time she undertook her work, accounted for the blindness of twenty-eight per cent. of the children in schools for the sightless. She was a member of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City and one of the first seven persons elected to honorary membership in the American Unitarian Association. She was the first woman to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. from Columbia University.

Thus, in the rehabilitation of the handicapped and the prevention of the handicap itself, Unitarians have been pioneers.

## Ministers Called

Rev. Paul L. Muder has been called to the church in Medfield, Mass. Mr. Muder goes to Medfield from Presque Isle, Maine, which was his first parish.

The Marshfield Hills, Mass., church has called Thomas Gregory Hutton, a student at Harvard Divinity School. Mr. Hutton has been educated at McGill University, Harvard Divinity School, and Harvard Graduate School, and is an experienced mission preacher in the Presbyterian denomination. He belongs to the Congregational fellowship and had applied for affiliation with the Unitarian fellowship.

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Most of Dr. Howe's life work lay in Buffalo, N.Y., where he was a member of the First Unitarian Church and served as chairman of the board of trustees. After his removal to Belmont, be was a regular attendant at the Unitarian Church.

Dr. Howe's work for the conservation of vision extended over a period of more than a half-century. For nearly fifty years he was in charge of the Buffalo Eye, Ear, and Throat Infirmary. He was professor emeritus of ophthalmology at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine. In 1927 he was awarded the Leslie Dana gold medal, given annually by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness to the person who has done most for the saving of human eyesight during the past year. In recognition of his work in checking ophthalmia in newborn infants, he was elected an honorary president of the Société Française d'Ophtbalmologie. He has held membership and offices in several ophthalmological and medical societies in hotb America and Europe.

His gift for the laboratory at Harvard was supplemented by later appropriations. Although tbe "Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology" is its official title, Dr. Howe preferred to have it known as a memorial to his father, brother, and father-in-law. At the time of making his gift, he said:

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As a testimonial to his fifty years of service, given by his associates and friends in Buffalo, April 16, 1925, it was pointed out that his services were notable in furthering interests outside his profession, including the schools of Buffalo and the State of New York. His opposition as a citizen to certain forms of politics that threatened to hinder the growth of Buffalo, his continuous championship of the finer things in the city, were also commended.

Of the same name, but not the same family, was Dr. Samuel G. Howe, mentioned earlier. To acquire the viewpoint of his blind pupils, he spent hours with his eyes bandaged. With his own hands he prepared books with raised type, and rude maps on which the principal cities were indicated by pius. Financial aid to his project came later from the Massachusetts Legislatnre and through efforts of the women of Boston. Colonel Thomas H. Perkins gave his house and estate for the first school for the bliud in America, the Perkins Institution. The head of this school to-day, Edward E. Allen, is also a Unitarian. Dr. Howe traveled, explaining his project and methods. The result was legislation in seventeen States for the education of the blind and the beginning by Congress of the National Library for the Blind.

In 1926, Miss Schuyler was likewise awarded the Leslie Dana Medal by the National Committee. Her work for the prevention of blinduess was begun in 1908 and resulted in the organization of this committee. It gave Miss Schuyler credit for reducing by one-half the infantile affliction which, at the time she undertook her work, accounted for the blindness of twenty-eight per cent. of the children in schools for the sightless. She was a member of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City and one of the first seven persons elected to honorary membersbip in the American Unitarian Association. She was the first woman to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. from Columbia University.

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Rev. Alfred E. von Stilli, who has been settled in Jamestown, N.Y., since 1925, has accepted a call to Tulsa Okla.

Rev. Frederick L. Weis of the Third Church, Dorchester, Mass., has been called to Lancaster, Mass.

## Preachers for Dr. Shippen in Second Church, Boston

During the leave of absence granted to the minister, Dr. Eugene R. Shippen, the pulpit of the Second Church in Boston, Mass., will be supplied, until Easter, by visiting preachers. Dr. and Mrs. Shippen will spend these months in Florida.

These will be the preachers: Dr. Thomas H. Billings, Dr. Nehemiah Boyuton, Prof. William Adams Brown, Rev. Edward H. Cotton, Prof. William W. Fenn, Rev. William J. Huizinga, Rev. John N. Mark, Rev. Vivian T. Pomeroy, Dr. William L. Sullivan, Dr. Frank S. C. Wicks. Youug People's Sunday will be observed Febrnary 10, when the Emerson Guild will be in charge. Two students from Harvard University and Radcliffe College will occupy the pulpit.

## To Pastorate in Canton, Mass.

Rev. Charles W. Casson began on New Year's Day his pastorate of the Unitarian Church in Canton, Mass., following his resignation as minister of the Second Unitarian Church in West Somerville, Mass.